

Mabel Elizabeth Crouse Jones

Although we do not have information on Mabel, the following information was reported to NASA at the death of her husband.



Jim Joe Jones, born Feb. 1, 1927, died at the age of 84, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011. He was born in Hannibal, Mo., the first child of Roy Forest Jones and Mary Leah Allen Jones. Jim met the love of his life upon his arrival in Hampton Va., a young mathematician named Mabel Crouse, to whom he was married on April 28, 1950.

Jim was raised in Elkhart, Ind., and graduated from Elkhart High School in Dec. 1943. He had a longtime fascination with aviation and had been an avid model airplane enthusiast. He entered Purdue to study Aeronautical Engineering.

Upon graduation in 1949, he was hired by the premier aeronautical institution in the country, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and moved to Hampton, Va. In 1958, NACA became the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Jim specialized in developing models for the heat dissipation to determine how much heat protection would be needed during re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. These calculations were critical for the safety of the crew as the program moved into manned flight. He was actively involved in the space flight program from Mercury through the Space Shuttle. He retired from government service in 1982 and continued for several years to work as a part-time contractor with the agency.

He is survived by Mabel Elizabeth Crouse Jones, his wife of 61 years; three children and their spouses, Nancy King (Blake) of Hampton, Va., Tom Jones (Diane) of Norton Shores, Mich., and Bob Jones (Susan) of Raleigh, N.C.; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Jane Flora (Gene) and her family (two nephews and a niece, eight great-nephews and nieces).

A memorial service was held Oct. 19, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church Hampton, 514 South Armistead Avenue, Hampton, followed by a reception.